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HEALTH REPORT

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICTS

OF

BENFLEET
CANVEY ISLAND
AND
RAYLEIGH

FOR

1950

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1950

Public Health Department,
London Road,
Hadleigh, Essex.

To the Chairman and Members of each of the Urban
District Councils of Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conjunction with my provisional report prepared and submitted in February of this year, I have the honour to present, for your consideration, my consolidated Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of each of your Urban Districts for the year 1950, prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Minister of Health as contained in Ministry of Health Circular 112/50 of the 6th December, 1950.

Realising that the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health is an opportunity not to be missed for the stressing of Public Health development, both with regard to achievements and future accomplishments, I have endeavoured to incorporate such information as is compatible with a readily understood volume, not only for the Local Government Councillor and Official, but also for a wider sphere of folk interested in local affairs.

For reasons of unanimity and economy I am continuing in the fashion of my last two yearly reports by issuing one report covering the three Urban Districts, as I am convinced that this is more desirable and acceptable. This endeavour represents my twenty-third Annual Report for the Canvey Island Urban District and my twenty-first for both Benfleet and Rayleigh Districts.

I am specially indebted to the Inspectorial Staff of the three Districts for their energetic co-operation throughout the year and for their contribution in Sections C. D. and E. of this Report. I would also like to record my appreciation to all members of the staff of each of the Public Health Departments for their loyal support during the past year.

Once again I would pay tribute to the helpful co-operation of my colleagues in general medical practice. Although heavily burdened with the complexity of modern health administration, I have, in addition to their natural emphasis on curative medicine, always found them actively interested in the prevention of disease. This means much to the Public Health of the area.

None the less are my thanks due to each District Council for their sympathetic consideration and assistance which has been a great help throughout the year.

Although this report endeavours to portray something of the upward trend of health standards so intimately linked with preventive medicine, I should like to take this opportunity to quote the following word of warning which recently appeared in the Press from an authoritative source. "The Public Health Service believes that prevention is better—and cheaper—than

cure, that the share of preventive services, about one-ninth, is but a small fraction of the cost (borne by both taxes and rates) of the National Health Service, and that ' a genuine reorientation of the health services towards prevention, early ascertainment and health maintenance would save untold millions of pounds rather than inflate the already staggering cost of palliation and cure ' ".

In concluding my opening remarks I should like to say that the Public Health Service can have no better motto than the words of the ancient prophet, " where there is no vision the people perish." Vision relates to the future : it is inspired by the past and attendant to the present, but all emphasis is on the path ahead.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

NORMAN LORRAINE,

F.R.S.E., M.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
R.C.P.S. (Edin.) & R.F.P.S. (Glas.) M.R. San.I.

July, 1951.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health ..	Norman Lorraine, F.R.S.E., M.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.R.San.I.
Locum to Medical Officer of Health ..	P. G. C. Jones, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Secretary to Medical Officer of Health	R. F. Stripp.
Sanitary Inspectors ..	J. E. Gilbert, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Senior Sanitary Inspector, Benfleet U.D.C.
	P. Sanders, M.S.I.A., Additional Sanitary Inspector, Benfleet U.D.C.
	Donald J. Legg, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Senior Sanitary Inspector, Canvey Island U.D.C.
	A. P. J. Cook, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Assistant Sanitary Inspector, Canvey Island U.D.C.
	E. H. Lloyd, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector, Rayleigh U.D.C.
Clerical Assistants.. ..	A. J. Hart, A.C.C.S., Benfleet U.D.C.
	Miss D. J. Kentfield, Canvey Island U.D.C.
	E. S. Lander, Rayleigh U.D.C. (part-time only to Sanitary Inspector's Department).

SECTION "A."

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

	Benfleet.	Canvey Island.	Rayleigh.
Area (in acres)	6,360	6,350	5,732
Inhabited Houses at 31st December, 1950 (according to Rate Book)	6,782	4,268	2,957
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year estimate)	19,720	10,800	9,474
Population (Children under 15 years) ..	4,236	2,465	1,967
Rateable Value	£117,663	£48,640	£61,170
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ..	£470	£187	£248
Rateable Value per head of the estimated population	£5.97	£4.5	£6.46

The social conditions of the area remain substantially the same as recorded in my Annual Report for 1948.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Benfleet.			Canvey Island.			Rayleigh.		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Live Births :	147	107	254	101	77	178	61	63	124
Legitimate	142	100	242	96	76	172	60	60	120
Illegitimate	5	7	12	5	1	6	1	3	4
Still Births :	2	2	4	2	—	2	3	2	5
Legitimate	2	2	4	2	—	2	3	2	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths :	142	136	278	82	70	152	66	47	113
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	12.9			16.5			13.1		
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	15.5			11.1			29.6		
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	14.1			14.1			11.9		

One death from puerperal causes occurred in the Canvey Island Urban District during 1950.

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :

Total number of infant deaths	9	7	2
All infants per 1,000 live births	35.4	39.3	16.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	37.2	34.3	16.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—	166.6	—

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES DURING THE YEAR 1950.

	Rate per 1,000 resident population		Deaths under one year per 1,000 registered live births
	Live Births	Deaths from all causes	
England and Wales	15.8	11.6	30
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	17.6	12.3	34
148 Smaller Towns. Resident population 25,000–50,000 at 1931 Census	16.7	11.6	30
London Administrative County	17.8	11.8	27
BENFLEET U.D.	12.9	14.1	35
CANVEY ISLAND U.D. ..	16.6	14.1	39
RAYLEIGH U.D.	13.1	11.9	16

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES 1946–1950.

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infant Mortality Rate.
Benfleet U.D.			
1946 ..	19.0 ..	12.2 ..	16.6
1947 ..	19.4 ..	15.6 ..	20.9
1948 ..	16.1 ..	14.3 ..	41.3
1949 ..	15.4 ..	14.3 ..	36.5
1950 ..	12.9 ..	14.1 ..	35.4
Canvey Island U.D.			
1946 ..	22.7 ..	13.8 ..	33.8
1947 ..	23.8 ..	13.1 ..	29.3
1948 ..	18.1 ..	14.7 ..	42.1
1949 ..	17.8 ..	12.2 ..	10.6
1950 ..	16.5 ..	14.1 ..	39.3
Rayleigh U.D.			
1946 ..	17.5 ..	12.7 ..	6.8
1947 ..	22.0 ..	15.9 ..	26.2
1948 ..	17.3 ..	9.5 ..	12.5
1949 ..	15.9 ..	16.2 ..	47.0
1950 ..	13.1 ..	11.9 ..	16.1
Averages for last five years :			
England and Wales	18.0 ..	11.5 ..	36.0
Benfleet U.D.	16.6 ..	14.1 ..	30.1
Canvey Island U.D.	19.8 ..	13.6 ..	31.0
Rayleigh U.D.	17.2 ..	13.2 ..	21.7

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES FOR THE YEARS 1931 TO 1950.

Year.	*England and Wales.*			*Benfleet Urban District.*			*Canvey Is. Urban District.*			*Rayleigh Urban District.*		
	Birth Rate.	*Death Rate.*	*Infant Mortality Rate.*	*Birth Rate.*	*Death Rate.*	*Infant Mortality Rate.*	*Birth Rate.*	*Death Rate.*	*Infant Mortality Rate.*	*Birth Rate.*	*Death Rate.*	*Infant Mortality Rate.*
1931 ..	16.0	11.0	66	14.4	11.3	40.2	9.2	10.5	71.4	16.0	11.0	40.0
1932 ..	15.3	12.0	65	14.1	12.8	39.0	19.5	12.1	39.5	15.2	10.9	68.6
1933 ..	14.4	12.3	64	11.6	12.7	33.0	14.9	12.3	29.4	13.4	9.8	10.8
1934 ..	14.8	11.8	59	12.8	12.4	50.6	19.3	16.0	31.9	12.4	10.5	83.0
1935 ..	14.7	11.7	57	11.6	12.0	30.3	10.9	13.2	49.1	13.4	11.7	30.9
1936 ..	14.8	12.1	59	14.6	12.7	51.6	15.2	11.9	97.8	12.7	12.8	76.1
1937 ..	14.9	12.4	58	12.2	12.0	68.1	12.9	12.6	130.9	13.1	11.9	51.0
1938 ..	15.1	11.6	53	12.2	13.0	40.2	13.4	12.8	90.9	12.1	12.7	32.9
1939 ..	15.0	12.1	50	14.1	12.3	28.9	13.6	14.0	47.1	12.6	14.2	66.6
1940 ..	14.6	14.3	55	12.2	15.2	43.2	13.9	15.2	—	12.0	13.6	74.5
Averages for ten year period	15.0	12.1	58.6	13.0	12.6	42.5	14.3	13.1	58.8	13.3	11.9	53.4
1941 ..	14.2	12.9	59	14.2	15.9	39.1	16.1	15.1	50.5	12.0	13.7	50.5
1942 ..	15.8	11.6	49	14.3	14.7	44.4	22.7	13.4	36.5	16.1	15.5	39.0
1943 ..	16.5	12.1	49	15.3	16.2	47.2	20.3	17.1	75.0	14.8	14.5	17.7
1944 ..	17.6	11.6	46	17.3	13.9	53.2	19.6	14.0	67.1	15.2	13.7	35.4
1945 ..	16.1	11.4	46	16.3	14.9	10.6	17.2	10.4	43.7	16.3	15.9	16.2
1946 ..	19.1	11.5	43	19.0	12.2	16.6	22.7	13.8	33.8	17.5	12.7	6.8
1947 ..	20.5	12.0	41	19.4	15.6	20.9	23.8	13.1	29.3	22.0	15.9	26.2
1948 ..	17.9	10.8	34	16.1	14.3	41.3	18.1	14.7	42.1	17.3	9.5	12.5
1949 ..	16.7	11.7	32	15.4	14.3	36.5	17.8	12.2	10.6	15.9	16.2	47.0
1950 ..	15.8	11.6	30	12.9	14.1	35.4	16.5	14.1	39.3	13.1	11.9	16.1
Averages for ten year period	17.0	11.7	42.9	16.1	14.6	34.5	19.5	13.8	42.8	16.0	14.0	26.8

Comments on Vital Statistics.

Some very interesting facts are brought to light by the table of Birth, Death and Infant Mortality Rates for the years 1931–1950 to be found on page 6.

Considering the Birth Rate first, we see that in England and Wales the average Rate over the last 10 years was 17 per 1,000 of the resident population as compared with 15 per 1,000 in the previous 10 years. The Birth Rate throughout the years 1931–1940 showed a tendency to decrease steadily over the period, whereas in the 10 years 1941–1950 it showed a definite upward trend, particularly in the immediate post-war years when the peak of 20.5 per 1,000 of the population was reached in 1947. This was the highest Birth Rate for the Country since 1921. However, it is certainly most noticeable that since the peak was reached there has been a steady and marked falling off with the 1950 Rate a little lower than that shown 20 years earlier.

In each of the three Urban Districts the average Birth Rate for the period 1931–1940 was well below the Rate for England and Wales, with Canvey Island having the highest (14.3) and Benfleet the lowest (13.0). In the second ten year period (1941–1950) the average Canvey Island Rate rose well above the Country's average to 19.5 although Benfleet and Rayleigh still remained below.

Turning to the Death Rate, we see that the Country's average lowered from 12.1 to 11.7 during the two ten year periods. The rate tended to keep fairly steady although the hazards of an aerial war may have been associated with the occurrence in 1940 of the highest national Rate of 14.3 for the whole 20 years under review.

In each of the Urban Districts the average Death Rate showed a decided increase during the 1941–1950 period as against the average Rate for the preceding ten years. This was particularly noticeable in Rayleigh where the Rate rose from 11.9 to 14.0 in the two periods. Canvey Island showed the smallest increase, e.g. 13.1 to 13.8. This average increase in the local Death Rate as compared with the Country's average decrease is no doubt associated with the fact that Benfleet and Rayleigh in particular, and Canvey Island to a lesser extent, have an unusually large number of aged residents who have come to South-East Essex to spend a quiet retirement.

Over the whole 20 years it is observed that the Death Rate exceeded the Birth Rate some seven times in Benfleet, four times in Canvey Island and six times in Rayleigh. Whilst this would appear to show a backward trend, it is interesting to observe that the 1950 statistics from the Registrar-General provide the pre-war feature of the Comparability Factor which is designed to adjust the Birth and Death Rates in areas where the age distribution of the population is other than the average for the Country. The effects of this adjustment present a more favourable picture for these Districts as shown hereunder :—

BIRTHS

	Comparability Factor	Actual Number.	Actual Rate.	Amended Number.	Amended Rate.
Benfleet U.D.	1.12	254	12.9	284	14.4
Canvey Island U.D.	1.11	178	16.5	197	18.3
Rayleigh U.D.	1.11	124	13.1	138	14.5

DEATHS.

	Comparability Factor.	Actual Number.	Actual Rate.	Amended Number.	Amended Rate.
Benfleet U.D.	0.73	278	14.1	203	10.3
Canvey Island U.D.	0.80	152	14.1	122	11.3
Rayleigh U.D.	0.76	113	11.9	86	9.0

Thus we see that the adjusted Birth Rate for Benfleet and Rayleigh is much closer to the figure for England and Wales, and the Rate for Canvey Island rose to 18.3 as against 15.8 for the rest of the Country.

The Death Rates, similarly, are most advantageously adjusted, each District having a Rate which is below the national figure, with Rayleigh having the very low figure of 9.0.

The fact that the population of these Districts has so materially increased during the last 20 years speaks well for their popularity and attractiveness to the masses of the more congested areas, and there is every confidence in these Districts being well able to continue to attract residents from other areas by virtue of their geographical position and reputation for healthiness.

The Infant Mortality Rate is one of the clearest reflections of a healthy community and a survey of the figures for the past 20 years are indeed most encouraging. In the first ten years under review, we see that Canvey Island had the highest Rate although practically the same as the rest of the Country. Rayleigh showed the next highest average at 53.4 per 1,000 live births and Benfleet had the most favourable figure of 42.5 as against 58.6 for England and Wales. In the ten years 1941–1950 there was a great improvement. The average showed that 16 fewer children per 1,000 births died in the first year of life in the Country generally, the Rate falling to 42.9. From the local point of view, Rayleigh made the greatest improvement with a 50 per cent. drop to only 26.8 or approximately 27 infant deaths in every 1,000 live births. Benfleet also improved with a rate of 34.5, whilst Canvey Island, although improving to a Rate of 42.8, continued to keep in line with the Rate for the whole Country.

The combined Infant Mortality Rate for the three Districts for 1950 was 30.2 per 1,000 registered live births. This approximately equalled the Rate for England and Wales. This local Rate represents a small improvement on last year's combined Rate of 31.3

Of the 18 infants who died in these Districts during 1950 under one year of age, 13 died within the first four weeks of life. According to available information, all infants died from either prematurity, congenital conditions or other factors associated with the newborn, apart from four who died from Broncho-pneumonia or other respiratory conditions, and one from Septic Meningitis.

DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1950

Age.	Deaths. Number in District.	Outward Transfers.	Inward Transfers.	Number of deaths which apply to District.
Benfleet U.D.				
Under 1 year	5	—	4	9
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—
2 ,, ,, 5	—	—	2	2
5 ,, ,, 15	—	—	2	2
15 ,, ,, 25	2	—	—	2
25 ,, ,, 35	1	—	3	4
35 ,, ,, 45	1	1	3	3
45 ,, ,, 55	7	1	7	13
55 ,, ,, 65	23	—	15	38
65 ,, ,, 75	50	2	18	66
75 and upwards	105	9	43	139
Totals for Benfleet	194	13	97	278
Canvey Island U.D.				
Under 1 year	1	—	6	7
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—
2 ,, ,, 5	—	—	—	—
5 ,, ,, 15	1	—	1	2
15 ,, ,, 25	1	1	1	1
25 ,, ,, 35	3	1	—	2
35 ,, ,, 45	5	—	1	6
45 ,, ,, 55	2	—	6	8
55 ,, ,, 65	19	5	10	24
65 ,, ,, 75	27	1	19	45
75 and upwards	39	3	21	57
Totals for Canvey Island	98	11	65	152
Rayleigh U.D.				
Under 1 year	—	—	2	2
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—
2 ,, ,, 5	1	1	—	—
5 ,, ,, 15	—	—	1	1
15 ,, ,, 25	—	—	—	—
25 ,, ,, 35	1	—	1	2
35 ,, ,, 45	3	—	2	5
45 ,, ,, 55	4	—	2	6
55 ,, ,, 65	7	—	7	14
65 ,, ,, 75	25	3	12	34
75 and upwards	34	2	17	49
Totals for Rayleigh	75	6	44	113

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1950.

		Benfleet U.D.			*Canvey Island U.D.*			*Rayleigh U.D.*		
		Male.	*Female.*	*Total.*	*Male.*	*Female*	*Total.*	*Male.*	*Female.*	*Total.*
	All causes	142	136	278	82	70	152	66	47	113
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	4	5	1	1	2	3	2	5
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	1
4.	Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2	4	2	1	3	2	1	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	3	9	2	2	4	4	1	5
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	4	4	—	3	3	—	1	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2	2	—	2	2	—	1	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	10	15	12	9	21	9	2	11
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
16.	Diabetes	1	2	3	—	1	1	—	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	19	23	42	8	8	16	6	7	13
18.	Coronary disease, angina	25	14	39	9	8	17	12	4	16
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	5	5	10	3	4	7	2	1	3
20.	Other heart disease	39	39	78	9	12	21	10	12	22
21.	Other circulatory disease	4	5	9	2	1	3	4	2	6
22.	Influenza	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	5	2	7	6	4	10	2	2	4
24.	Bronchitis	7	3	10	7	3	10	2	1	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1	1	—	1	2	—	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3	2	—	2	1	1	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	2	3	—	3	—	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	12	24	11	6	17	2	7	9
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	1	1
34.	All other accidents	2	1	3	2	1	3	3	—	3
35.	Suicide	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

POPULATION STATISTICS.

	Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Estimated Population.
Benfleet U.D.	1941	224	252	15,830
	1942	225	231	15,660
	1943	254	252	15,260
	1944	282	227	16,280
	1945	282	260	17,350
	1946	361	232	18,960
	1947	383	308	19,720
	1948	315	281	19,600
	1949	301	281	19,600
	1950	254	278	19,720
Canvey Island U.D.	1941	93	87	5,778
	1942	137	81	6,017
	1943	120	101	5,909
	1944	149	106	7,589
	1945	137	83	7,960
	1946	207	126	9,103
	1947	239	131	10,030
	1948	190	154	10,500
	1949	188	129	10,550
	1950	178	152	10,800
Rayleigh U.D.	1941	99	113	8,223
	1942	128	123	7,919
	1943	113	111	7,661
	1944	113	102	7,431
	1945	123	120	7,539
	1946	146	106	8,320
	1947	191	138	8,691
	1948	160	88	9,237
	1949	149	152	9,380
	1950	124	113	9,474

SUMMARY.

	Benfleet U.D.	Canvey Island U.D.	Rayleigh U.D.
Excess of births over deaths during 10 years	279	488	180
Percentage increase of population during 10 years	24.57	86.9	15.2
Percentage increase of population since 1938	16.13	64.16	26.0

NOTES :—

The abnormal movement of population during the war years varied considerably in the three areas and in order to assess a more accurate increase in the respective populations during recent years, percentage figures based on the 1938 population for each District are also shown. From these it will be obvious that the populations of Benfleet and Canvey Island fell considerably between 1938 and 1941, in fact, by 1,150 and 800 respectively.

Once again we have evidence that migration is the chief source of supply for the upward trend of the populations of these Districts. No doubt the over-balance of the older age-groups is responsible for the excess of births over deaths being so small. Another area in Essex with a similar population showed an excess of births over deaths during the 10 year period 1941–50 of 2,488 as compared with our combined figure of 947.

SECTION "B"

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Service.

The aim of the Public Health Laboratory Service, as directed by the Medical Research Council of the Ministry of Health, is to assist Medical Officers of Health in the investigation of disease and to suggest advice on new techniques, but not in any way to interfere with the work or duties of local health authorities.

The local Public Health Laboratory is located at the Westcliff Hospital, Balmoral Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, with Dr. R. Pilsworth as the Director in Charge.

Facilities exist for the examination of most types of specimens free of charge to the Local Authorities and the close proximity of this Laboratory to these Districts is most advantageous.

Certain specimens associated with water and sewage, however, still have to be sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratories in London where the County Council have arrangements for specimens to be examined without charge to the Local Authorities.

Ambulance Service.

The County Ambulance Service provides ambulances throughout the three Urban Districts. Benfleet and Rayleigh are served by the Thundersley Ambulance Station located in Kenneth Road (Telephone South Benfleet 2323). The ambulance for Canvey Island is stationed on the Island at the Council Offices, Long Road (Telephone Canvey 161).

If there is a dialling system in force an ambulance can be called in an emergency by dialling 999. Where there is no dialling system, the telephone operator should be asked for an ambulance.

Requests for the removal of non-emergency cases should be made by the appropriate person to the County Ambulance Officer at Chelmsford (Telephone Chelmsford 4388, and stating (1) if a trained nurse is required; (2) if a sitting case car is required; and (3) in respect of a case of infectious disease, an indication of the nature of the disease as pronounced by the Medical Attendant.

Requests for the removal of cases of infectious disease are usually made to the Medical Officer of Health or his staff when arrangements are made accordingly. All infectious cases are carried in the ordinary ambulances of the County Ambulance Service with the exception of Smallpox and Typhus. It is understood that disinfection is always undertaken after each infectious case has been removed.

Home Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting.
Health Service Clinics.
Domestic Helps.

The provision of these facilities and services come within the purview of the Essex County Council as Local Health Authority and are administered locally by the Area Medical Officer whose offices are situated at No. 153, High Street, Rayleigh (Telephone : Rayleigh 831–2).

Health Service Clinics are provided at Canvey Island, South Benfleet, Thundersley, Hadleigh and Rayleigh, and regular sessions are held dealing with expectant mothers, child welfare, minor ailments, eyes and immunisation against diphtheria.

A well organised Domestic Help Service is available to residents needing additional help in the home during illness or confinement.

Hospitals.

General medical and surgical cases, on the recommendation of the local medical attendant and according to bed availability, are admitted to either the General Hospitals at Southend or Rochford. Cases of infectious disease are generally sent to the Westcliff Hospital.

The treatment of persons suffering from Tuberculosis or suspected to be suffering therefrom is under the direction of the local Consultant Tuberculosis Physician, Dr. E. G. Sita-Lumsden, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Lancaster House Chest Clinic, Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea. This doctor also makes the necessary arrangements for those needing in-patient treatment to be admitted to the appropriate hospital or sanatoria.

SECTION "C"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply.

The water supply for the three Urban Districts is provided by the Southend Waterworks Company. The supply for the Rayleigh District and in a large measure the Benfleet and Canvey Island Districts, is derived from the main source at Langford, although there are three deep wells at Canvey Island and one at Benfleet, all electrically operated, which supplement the Company's main supply.

The Southend Waterworks Company's Resident Chemist makes daily tests of the treated water going into the supply from river sources and fortnightly analyses of the water from their local deep wells. In addition, quarterly samples are examined by the Counties Public Health Laboratories. The results obtained show waters of normal chemical character and good bacteriological quality. The water is pure and wholesome and suitable for public supply purposes. During 1950 the supply was satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity. No lead contamination of the water supplies was encountered during the year.

In the **Benfleet** Urban District 96.5 per cent. of all dwelling-houses are supplied with a main water supply by the Southend Waterworks Company. The supply is direct to the houses in all but seven properties which are served by stand-pipes. The remaining 3.5 per cent. of dwelling-houses rely on supplies from rain-water tanks or shallow wells and most of these dwellings are scattered throughout the New Thundersley area which is mainly undeveloped and outside the Urban Fence for town planning purposes. During the year, however, arrangements were made for an additional 8,398 yards of water main to be laid to serve this needy area, and when completed, will permit 153 dwelling-houses to be connected to the main water supply. The drier months of the year are generally difficult for families living in properties which are not supplied with main water and on two occasions in 1950 it was necessary for

drinking water to be delivered to assist householders when their private supplies failed. Nine samples of water from four dwellings and one cafe were taken from the Benfleet Council's area during the year. Laboratory reports showed that the samples from three of the dwellings and the cafe were not entirely satisfactory and measures were therefore taken to secure improvements. Subsequent samples from these premises gave satisfactory results.

The **Canvey Island** Urban District Council continue to pursue their post-war policy of providing a main water supply to as many properties as possible in their area and a total of 2,220 yards of new water mains were laid during 1950. Of this total, 754 yards were laid under the Council's guarantee, 586 yards to serve new Council Houses and 880 yards to serve properties where owners partly assisted in the costs involved. During the year 163 properties were connected to the main water supply, making a total of 3,576 of all dwelling-houses connected to the main water supply on the Island. In addition, in outlying areas where the cost of laying a main supply direct to houses is prohibitive, the Council have erected standpipes and some 315 properties are supplied in this way. Over the last five years a total of 779 properties at Canvey Island have been connected to the main water supply. This indeed, is most creditable to a local authority who fully appreciate that a healthy community needs a healthy main water supply. Canvey Island, unlike many other areas, cannot rely upon shallow wells as a supplementary source of supply. As the sub-soil consists of a very deep strata of clay, shallow wells would only become a source of drainage for polluted surface water. Furthermore, stored rain water is also an unreliable source of supply because of inadequacy for modern needs and the difficulty of maintaining storage tanks in a cleanly condition. The Canvey Island Council are rightly giving emphasis and priority to the provision of this essential service for all its residents. Further schemes for the extension of water mains are in course of preparation and implementation.

In the **Rayleigh** Urban District 98.25 per cent. of the dwelling-houses are provided with a main water supply by the Southend Waterworks Company. Of this figure, 0.75 per cent. of the properties are supplied by means of standpipes. During the year 1,209 yards of new water main were laid under a scheme subsidised by the local authority for the purposes of serving properties formerly relying upon well and rain water supplies. This extension made the main supply available to eleven properties and at the end of the year 10 of these had been connected. Forty-six new houses were also connected to the main supply during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

In the **Benfleet** Urban District it is estimated that over 90 per cent. of all properties are connected to the main drainage system. Furthermore, about 150 dwelling-houses have their drains connected to cesspools and some 400 houses and bungalows are provided with earth closets. These latter are largely confined to the New Thundersley area.

During the year 19 premises were connected to the main sewer and five to cesspools. Extensions or improvements were carried out to the drainage of eight existing buildings. Advantage was taken of powers contained in the Public Health Act to construct private sewers on behalf of 10 property owners so that their dwellings might be connected thereto, the cost to the Council being repaid by instalments.

During 1950 the **Canvey Island** Urban District Council continued to pursue their progressive policy of providing a main drainage system wherever this very essential service is lacking. Altogether 900 yards of new sewers were laid during the year—700 yards for the benefit of existing properties and 200 yards to serve new properties on the Council's Housing Estate.

A further 269 properties were connected to the main drainage system during 1950 and at the end of the year it was estimated that 45 per cent. of all properties on Canvey Island were connected to the main sewer. In view of the many difficulties involved and the fact that the number of properties at Canvey Island connected to the main sewer have almost doubled since the end of the War, the present figure would appear most favourable. Further schemes, however, are in hand for 1951.

Newly erected Public Conveniences were completed during the year. These premises, centrally situated, have filled a long felt need, particularly for the many thousands of holiday makers who come to Canvey Island every year.

It is estimated that the main drainage system in the **Rayleigh** Urban District serves 87 per cent. of the properties of that area. During 1950, 43 yards of new sewers were laid to serve the Council's Housing Site and some 46 new houses (private and municipal) were connected to the main sewer during the year.

There still remain several groups of houses too congested to rely on their present conservancy systems of drainage where extension of the main sewer is the only means of terminating the nuisances which frequently arise.

During the year it was found necessary on 49 occasions to deal with nuisances associated with drainage systems.

About 330 houses in the District are provided with cesspools and 210 with earth closets.

Public Cleansing.

In the **Benfleet** Urban District house refuse is disposed of on the Benfleet marshes by controlled tipping. In this system, refuse is tipped in orderly layers and covered with suitable innocuous material. At the completion of the tipping the land will have been raised to such a level that it can be used for recreation purposes.

During 1950 refuse was collected weekly from all accessible parts of the District and the service functioned satisfactorily. Efforts to salvage all materials of value were continued and £1,553 was received from the sale of such materials.

At **Canvey Island**, the house-to-house system of collection of refuse continued to operate to capacity in all parts of the District throughout the year. The large number of un-made roads, however, are a great handicap during bad weather when they become impassable for vehicular traffic, and the refuse collection organisation was severely taxed thereby during the extremely wet winter of 1950/51.

As with house refuse, trade refuse is collected once a fortnight unless there is a need for it to be collected more frequently when suitable arrangements are made.

A house-to-house collection of refuse and salvage is carried out throughout the **Rayleigh** Urban District, the collection being at weekly intervals in the main shopping area and at fortnightly intervals elsewhere. Collection is made by a 13 cubic yard side loading vehicle for the refuse and a 7 cubic yard trailer for the salvage. Disposal is by the controlled method of tipping.

Night soil was collected at weekly intervals from 91 premises during the year.

The sale of salvaged material produced an income of £1,077, representing an increase of £127 compared with the previous year. The total weight of salvage collected amounted to 138 tons representing an increase of 5 tons on the 1949 collection. Of this, 131 tons were of paper, $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons of rags and $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons of miscellaneous scrap.

Factories Act, 1937.

In the **Benfleet** area there is a total of 57 factories on the register and 48 of these premises employ mechanical power. Inspections were made on 54 occasions during the year and the 13 defects found were remedied by the occupiers. No legal proceedings were taken. Also, one work-place was inspected and 34 Outworkers' premises were visited during the year. All were found to be satisfactory.

There are 30 factories on the register of the Local Authority at **Canvey Island** and 28 of these employ mechanical power. Routine inspections were carried out during the year and in one case certain alterations in the internal lay-out were made and " escape lanes " amended to provide adequate escape in case of fire, together with improvements in the alarm system. During the course of the year two new factories of modern design were built, one for book-binding and the other for the manufacture of wireless sets and components.

Forty-two premises in the **Rayleigh** Urban District are registered as factories and 38 of these employ mechanical power. During the year 66 inspections were made and of the 12 defects found, 10 were remedied by the 31st December.

Storage of Petroleum.

Routine inspections in each of the three Districts were made during the year in respect of applications to store petroleum spirit. The number of licences issued during 1950 was as follows—Benfleet 29, Canvey Island 9 and Rayleigh 19.

Infectious Diseases.

In the **Benfleet** Urban District the Inspectorial Staff made 30 visits to premises following the notification of infectious diseases. Also, 17 visits were made to the contacts of such diseases. Disinfection was carried out at 15 dwellings.

At **Canvey Island**, 20 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspector's Department following the notification of infectious diseases. Also some 324 visits were made in connection with contacts of infectious diseases, many of which were on holiday from the Greater London area.

The Sanitary Inspector for the **Rayleigh** Urban District made 21 visits during the year for the purpose of investigating the circumstances associated with the occurrence of infectious diseases in the District and of contacts living locally of cases occurring in other areas. Disinfection was carried out at 14 of the premises so affected.

General.

The Sanitary Inspector's Department of the **Benfleet** Urban District Council made a total of 2,390 visits during the year, resulting in 43 Informal and 47 Statutory Notices being served. Fifty-five Informal Notices were outstanding at the 31st December, 1950. Legal proceedings to enforce compliance with Notices were taken on two occasions and were successful. A total of 155 complaints were received during the year.

At **Canvey Island** the Inspectorial Staff made a total of 3,370 visits and inspections during the year. 125 complaints, of which 30 were concerned with housing defects, 15 with unsatisfactory drainage and 3 with water supplies, were received and dealt with during the year. Of the 59 Informal Notices served, 47 had been complied with by 31st December. Of the three Statutory Notices served only one had been complied with by 31st December. Of the outstanding Notices complied with during 1950, 19 were from 1949, three from 1948 and seven from 1947.

In the **Rayleigh** Urban District the Sanitary Inspector's Department received 114 complaints during 1950 and in connection with these and general routine work, made 1,299 visits and inspections. Such visits were associated with the detection and abatement of nuisances, the repair and improvement of dwelling-houses, the abatement of overcrowding, the re-housing of persons inadequately housed, building licence applications, the storage of petroleum, the keeping of animals, the eradication of rats and mice, the administration of the Factories Act, Shops Act, Milk and Dairies Regulations, the inspection of food and food premises, enquiries into cases of infectious diseases and food poisoning, water supply surveys, moveable dwellings, refuse collection and the collection of salvage.

During the year it was found necessary to serve 72 Informal Notices and in seven instances these were succeeded by Statutory Notices. 63 Notices, including a number from the preceding year, were complied with during 1950. At the end of the year 50 notices were yet to be complied with. Works were completed during the year in respect of 46 instances where the service of Notices was found not to be necessary. The following is a summary of all the completed works referred to above :—

Houses repaired	49
Houses connected to sewer	5
Drainage systems improved	2
Houses connected to water mains	7
Houses demolished	1
Abatement of nuisances other than those included in the above	45

SECTION "D"

HOUSING

Benfleet U.D.

During the year 72 complaints regarding housing defects were received and 72 Notices were served. At the 31st December, 1950, 34 Notices were outstanding. Property owners generally carried out the works required with reasonable despatch.

There were 748 applications for Council houses on the waiting list at the 31st December, 1950, including 50 applicants for old people's bungalows. During the year 52 Council flats and 8 Council houses were erected, and 25 dwellings were erected by private builders. 28 dwellings were still under requisition at the end of the year.

The Sanitary Inspector's Department is responsible for the issue of building licences for all building operations except new dwelling-houses. During 1950, 97 licences were issued for housing repairs, additions and improvements, and the value of such work was estimated to be £28,234. Also, one licence was issued in respect of a war damage re-build and two in respect of conversions and adaptations. These involved a further combined value of £3,925. Two additional units of accommodation were provided by means of conversions and adaptations to existing dwellings.

One Demolition Order in respect of a dilapidated dwelling-house was made, and an undertaking to repair was accepted in respect of another.

Canvey Island U.D.

Twenty-four private houses were erected during 1950, including one war damage re-build.

Sixteen Council houses and bungalows and 22 Council flats were also erected, providing accommodation for 38 families. A further 38 Council houses, bungalows or semi-bungalows were either in course of erection or tenders accepted for their erection at the end of the year. Ten Council flats were also in course of erection at the 31st December.

There were over 500 applications on the Council's Housing List at the 31st December, 1950. Of these, 162 were from persons resident away from Canvey Island. The remainder were from local residents and the list includes 46 Old Age Pensioners.

Although every effort is made to provide alternative accommodation for the cases of serious overcrowding, there still remain a number who come within this category. During the year it was necessary to make 492 inspections in connection with overcrowding and unsatisfactory living conditions. Also, 10 inspections were made in respect of defects in properties under the Housing Acts.

As is well known, Canvey Island is increasing in its popularity as a holiday resort and the invasion of thousands of holiday-makers between May and September greatly aggravates the housing situation. The position, however, is eased somewhat by the existence of three licensed Holiday Camps.

Rayleigh U.D.

During the year 66 houses were repaired or improved and one was demolished as a result of action by the Sanitary Inspector's Department.

The situation in respect of housing accommodation again deteriorated as, although 46 new houses were built, the number of applicants requiring houses increased during the year by 73 to a total of 473.

Of the 46 new houses erected during the year, 37 were Council houses and nine were privately built. Since May, 1945, a total of 289 houses have been built within the Rayleigh Urban District. Of these, 163, were Council houses, 113 were privately built and 13 were war damage re-builds.

SECTION "E"

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk.

In the **Benfleet** Urban District the following licences were issued during the year under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949 :—

	Pasteurised.	Sterilised.	Tuberculin Tested.
Dealer's Licences ..	10 ..	15 ..	4
Supplementary Licences ..	3 ..	3 ..	2

The Benfleet area also had the following registrations at the 31st December, 1950, under the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 :—

Number of persons carrying on the trade of distributor	17
Number of premises used as dairies	1

During the year six visits were made to dairies and milk shops in the Benfleet Urban District and the following samples were taken—Pasteurised Milk (10), Sterilised Milk (5), Tuberculin Tested Milk (7), and Raw Milk (3). All the 25 samples proved to be satisfactory on examination.

Throughout the year routine inspections have been made of the premises of milk purveyors in the **Canvey Island** Urban District and no adverse reports were necessary.

In that area the following licences were issued during the year under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949 :—

	Pasteurised.	Sterilised.	Tuberculin Tested.
Dealer's Licences ..	5 ..	16 ..	1
Supplementary Licences ..	2 ..	3 ..	2

In past years one of the most serious drawbacks to the supply of bottled milk at Canvey Island has been the indiscriminate dumping of empty bottles, particularly on un-made roads. Representation to the consuming public and milk roundsmen has been chiefly responsible for the cessation of this practice which, apart from its public health significance, was an economic loss to the trade.

On the 31st December, 1950, there were two dairies registered for the retail sale of milk and also four firms who sold milk from vehicles within the

Rayleigh Urban District but who were registered at premises situate outside that District. Supplementary licences were also issued to two of these firms for the sale of Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised Milk.

During the year twelve samples of milk were taken from the Rayleigh area. These consisted of six Tuberculin Tested, five Pasteurised and one Ungraded. All were the subject of a satisfactory report by the Analyst and in the case of the graded samples, were shown to conform to the statutory standards.

Meat Inspection.

The Sanitary Inspectors of the **Benfleet** Urban District Council paid 322 visits to the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse at Cross Farm, Benfleet Road, Hadleigh during the course of the year, and the carcases and organs of 10,557 food animals were examined, as set out below :—

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	2,574	1,851	2,190	3,907	35
Number inspected	2,574	1,851	2,190	3,907	35
All diseases except Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcases condemned	1	9	21	16	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	513	401	4	91	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	19.9	22.1	1.1	2.7	8.6
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcases condemned	15	45	1	Nil	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	437	756	Nil	Nil	8
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	17.5	43.3	0.46	Nil	25.7

NOTE.—68 bovines were affected with C.Bovis, representing 1.53 per eent.

During the year, 68 carcases of beef were found to be affected with Cysticercus Bovis, which is the immature stage of the human tapeworm T.Saginata.

All slaughtering took place at the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse, Cross Farm, Benfleet Road, Hadleigh. The Contractor and Slaughtermen maintained a high standard of cleanliness, and it is desired to record appreciation of their efforts. A large electric fan was installed in the hanging room, and a large boiler was in course of erection at the end of the year.

Although there are no slaughterhouses at **Canvey Island**, routine inspections of the butchers' shops in the District were carried out by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors throughout the year. In all cases a satisfactory standard of cleanliness was maintained, both of premises and equipment.

It is estimated that the Ministry of Food slaughterhouse situate at the premises of Messrs. Websters, Family Butchers, High Street, **Rayleigh**, serves a population of approximately 120,000, chiefly from the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea. Consequently, Inspectors of that Authority share the work of Meat Inspection at Rayleigh with the Rayleigh Council's Sanitary Inspector, and during the year a total of 12,227 animals were examined, representing an increase of 2,931 on the 1949 figures. The details are as follows :—

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	2,119	1,357	756	6,500	1,495
Number inspected	2,119	1,357	756	6,500	1,495
All diseases except Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcases condemned	3	13	2	3	12
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	426	275	—	146	33
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	20.2	21.2	0.26	2.3	3.01
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcases condemned	7	33	—	—	14
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	219	322	—	—	47
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	10.7	26.1	—	—	4.08

Food Inspection.

In the **Benfleet** Urban District 381 visits were made to various food premises during the year in connection with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The following foods were surrendered by food traders as being unfit for human consumption :—

Eggs, 417 doz. ; milk, 247 tins ; bacon, 71 lbs. and 1 tin ; canned meat, 128 tins ; wet fish, 38 stone ; canned fish, 67 tins ; vegetable foods, 122 tins ; fruit and preserves, 59 tins ; cheese 4½ lbs. and 24 tins ; fats ,10 lbs. ; dried fruit, 30 lbs ; confectionery, 34 bars ; soup, 8 tins ; pickles, 2 jars ; culinary essence, 14 pkts.

In connection with the Clean Food Campaign, routine inspections are carried out at all food premises thrice yearly. The visits are not made at regular intervals, nor are the occupiers advised as to the date of visits. Reliance is placed upon personal contact to advise and encourage food handlers in matters of food hygiene. Printed advice upon the washing and sterilisation of crockery and utensils has been issued, together with the relevant sections of the Food and Drugs Act. At present, unsuitable premises and the lack of working area in kitchens are the greatest obstacles to be overcome by the personnel of food preparing establishments.

In the **Canvey Island** Urban District the Council's Sanitary Inspectors undertake a periodic inspection of food shops generally, and this may be responsible for the reasonably high standard which has been maintained, particularly among restaurants and cafes. Verbal comment on minor adverse conditions of cleanliness at the rush periods in the peak of the summer trade has usually produced the desired effect.

As the result of these routine inspections, the following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption on voluntary surrender :—

Fresh meat, 140 lbs. ; canned meat, 35 tins ; wet fish, 10 stone ; canned fish, 9 tins ; canned vegetables, 13 tins ; canned milk, 26 tins ; eggs, 36 dozen ; other foods, 15 containers.

In the **Rayleigh** Urban District 161 visits were made to food premises during the year by the Sanitary Inspector, in connection with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The standard of food shops, restaurants and cafes within this District is generally high and there is a general desire among the proprietors to make their premises more wholesome and attractive.

The following foodstuffs, weighing approximately 10 cwts., were voluntarily surrendered by shopkeepers during the year and condemned as being unfit for human consumption :—

Fresh meat, 433 lbs. ; canned meat, 84 lbs. ; butter, 6 lbs. ; cheese, 5 lbs. ; bacon, 14 lbs. ; wet fish, 77 lbs. ; eggs, 107 ; miscellaneous canned foods, 409 lbs.

Ice Cream.

At the end of 1950 there was a total of 82 premises in the **Benfleet** Urban District registered for the storage and sale of ice cream in accordance with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. At two of these premises ice cream is prepared by the " cold mix " system. In all other cases, supplies of ice cream were obtained in bulk from outside the District. A total of 23 inspections were made.

The Benfleet Council's Sanitary Inspectors submitted 12 samples of ice cream for bacteriological examination and the results obtained showed that eight were placed in Grade I, one in Grade II, one in Grade III and two in Grade IV. Results showing Grades I and II are considered to be satisfactory, whilst those in Grades III and IV are unsatisfactory. Suitable action was taken in respect of samples which produced unsatisfactory results.

There are 48 persons registered as vendors of Ice Cream at **Canvey Island** and in addition, 9 premises are registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream. Seven of the manufacturing plants are of the small variety catering for retail sale from the premises concerned. Of the two remaining plants,

one is a large modern factory completed in 1950 and the other a medium size plant erected in 1949. Both of these latter cater for wholesale and retail sales although many of the registered vendors at Canvey Island sell pre-packed ice cream supplied by the large London and Southend manufacturers.

All the samples of ice cream taken during the year for bacteriological examination were reported as coming within the provisional Grade I, apart from one sample only which was placed in Grade II. The absence of any unsatisfactory results was most gratifying, particularly as the District is one where large quantities of ice cream are sold during the summer months from seasonal establishments, etc.

There are no manufacturers of ice cream within the **Rayleigh** Urban District but 14 premises are registered for the retail sale thereof. Ice Cream is also sold in three cafes and a cinema but these are exempt from registration.

During the year 25 samples of ice cream were taken from retailers' premises and the analyst reported as follows :—

11 samples		Grade I	Satisfactory
5 samples		Grade II	
2 samples		Grade III	Unsatisfactory
7 samples		Grade IV	

Suitable action was taken in respect of the unsatisfactory samples.

SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

General Review.

The year 1950 was marked by a minimal incidence of infectious diseases, there being 166 notified cases in the Benfleet Urban District, 61 in the Canvey Island Urban District and 115 in the Rayleigh Urban District, making a total of 342 cases for the three areas as compared with 590 in 1949. Newly notified cases of Tuberculosis have been included in these figures.

Interesting figures for the purposes of comparison have been taken from the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Rochford Rural District for the year 1925. As will be appreciated, at that time these Urban Districts had not been formed, and were part of the Rural District of Rochford. From that Report it is learned that the population of the Rochford Rural District for the year 1925 was 27,530, or only 69 per cent. of the present combined population of the Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh Urban Districts. Yet, in that year (1925), there were 64 cases of Scarlet Fever, 22 cases of Diphtheria and 83 cases of Tuberculosis, in all involving 29 deaths. When it is remembered that 63 per cent. of all notifications received during 1950 were in respect of Measles and Whooping Cough, which diseases only became notifiable in 1940, and that the only deaths from infectious disease were from Tuberculosis which numbered 13, it will be appreciated that great strides have been made in the improvement of the public health during the last 25 years. There is no doubt that this remarkable achievement can be ascribed to the vigorous activity of preventive medicine and the rapid improvement of the sanitary services during the period.

Smallpox.

Whilst there has not been a single notified case of confirmed smallpox in these Districts for the past 20 years (nothing since the two mild cases at Canvey Island in 1930), it is essential that the positive menace of this disease, and of its virulence and prevalence in epidemic and endemic form in those countries of the world where health standards are extremely low, should be fully grasped by all concerned. Modern methods of transportation greatly facilitate the spread of infection from far-eastern areas of infection, and constant vigilance and extreme care is demanded of Air and Sea Port Health Authorities so as to exclude the importation of obscure cases of Smallpox into this Country.

During 1950 eight cases of Smallpox were notified in England and Wales, two of these being imported cases and the others resultant secondary cases. Four of these cases were associated with the Brighton epidemic which occurred in December, 1950, and January, 1951. In addition to the cases notified in England and Wales, the Glasgow outbreak in March, 1950, caused no small measure of concern. There, a Lascar seaman was the channel of infection and diagnosis was rendered difficult by the mild nature of the case. However, the gravity of the situation can be realised when it is stated that 20 secondary cases occurred of whom six unfortunately died. Just before the information about the Glasgow outbreak became available, a middle-aged woman in Thundersley was reported to be suffering from a condition resembling Smallpox but which, happily, proved to be other than Smallpox.

In July, a member of the crew of the s.s. STRATHNAVER was notified as a Smallpox contact and careful supervision was maintained whilst he stayed in the locality at his home at Great Tarpots. This ship had landed a case of Modified Smallpox at Aden *en route* for the United Kingdom. I am glad to say that there were no developments as far as the local contact was concerned.

Resistance to Smallpox is built up by a community which maintains a high vaccinal state. Unfortunately, however, the vaccinal standard of the community progressively deteriorated during the second half of 1948 and the whole of 1949, and although 1950 saw a considerable improvement in the position, the figures are still well below those existing before the repeal of the Vaccination Acts brought about by the introduction of the National Health Service Act in July, 1948.

Diphtheria

The present incidence and fatality of Diphtheria in this country is so small that the disease can no longer be reckoned as Public Enemy No. 1 and the chief of killers among the more serious infectious diseases. During 1950, there were only 49 deaths from Diphtheria in England and Wales as compared with an average of 2,800 annually in the 10 year period 1931–40. These 49 deaths from Diphtheria represented only 8 per cent. of the total deaths for the same year for Measles and Whooping Cough—normally reckoned as being of minor consequence as compared with Diphtheria. During 1950, only 980 confirmed cases of Diphtheria were notified in England and Wales as compared with 1,904 in 1949. In the 10 year period 1931–40 something like 55,000 cases were notified annually.

In the last ten years only 24 cases of Diphtheria have occurred in these Urban Districts as compared with 348 cases in the previous ten years. The number of deaths from the disease has fallen from 31 to 3 in the two periods. Not a single confirmed case of Diphtheria has occurred locally since 1948.

This remarkable victory over a one-time scourge of the community can, without hesitation, be attributed to mass immunisation of infants and school-children. It is authoritatively stated that almost nine million children received immunisation treatment between 1940 and 1950. If this happy position is to continue, preventive measures must also continue, and parents must realise that the disease will again rear its head and take its toll if they neglect to avail themselves of free immunisation treatment for their children. This treatment is particularly essential before the child's first birthday is reached.

Measles

This is an infectious disease to which most children fall victim sooner or later, although it should not be lightly regarded, as so often is the case. The yearly incidence in England and Wales is between 350 and 400 thousand cases, and as will be seen from the Table on page 36 the number of deaths therefrom is appreciable. Deaths associated with Measles usually occur among very young children in whom the complication of Broncho-pneumonia is generally the fatal cause. Death alone, however, is not the only serious factor which should demand greater care by parents of their children when Measles is prevalent in the locality. Many defects in sight and hearing in adults can be traced to an attack of Measles in childhood. Just as increased measures of personal hygiene are an added precaution against infection when Measles is prevalent, so careful nursing, motherly attention and isolation from other children is absolutely essential when the disease has been contracted.

The incidence of Measles in Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh during 1950 was exceptionally low and only 54 cases were notified in the combined area. The age and sex distribution for the incidence of Measles in each of the three Districts will be found in the tables on pages 37–39. It can be firmly assumed that this minimal incidence of Measles was associated with the biennial periodicity of the disease. Two of the cases developed complications and had to be admitted to the Westcliff Hospital and it is gratifying to record that no fatal cases occurred. The average annual incidence during the last 10 years has been—Benfleet Urban District, 160 cases; Canvey Island Urban District, 71 cases; and Rayleigh Urban District, 70 cases. Every household where a notified case of Measles occurs is supplied by my office with a suitable leaflet for guidance and assistance in the control of infection.

Whooping Cough

The national increase in the incidence of Whooping Cough during 1950 has continued on into 1951 which may later be regarded as a peak year for the number of cases of Whooping Cough (and Measles) notified since notification commenced in 1940. Whooping Cough, like Measles, is an infectious disease which must not be treated as of little consequence. An average of 100 to 150 thousand cases occur annually in England and Wales and the mortality rate is roughly six times that of Measles.

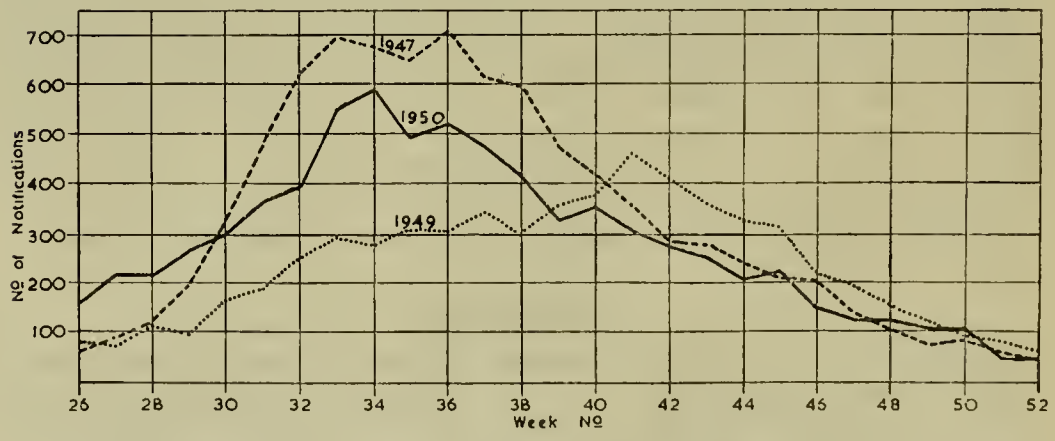
A total of 163 cases occurring in these Districts during 1950 is the highest collective incidence since 1941 when a total of 270 cases were notified. During the last 10 years there has been an average notification rate of 70 for Benfleet, five for Canvey Island and 30 for Rayleigh. For some unaccountable reason the incidence of notified Whooping Cough at Canvey Island has been extremely low.

Acute Poliomyelitis, Acute Encephalitis, Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis

New regulations affecting these diseases and entitled The Public Health (Acute Poliomyelitis, Acute Encephalitis and Meningococcal Infection) Regulations, 1949, came into operation on the 1st January, 1950. These Regulations were designed to replace, with slight modifications, the legislation which had been in force for nearly 40 years. They also introduced the nomenclature consistent with the International Statistical Classification of Diseases which, in this country, came into general use on the 1st January, 1950, and slightly extended the scope of clinical conditions notifiable under the heading of Acute Encephalitis.

Acute Poliomyelitis. Provisional figures of the Registrar-General show that 7,753 confirmed cases of Infantile Paralysis were notified in England and Wales during 1950 which was an epidemic year. This incidence was similar to that which occurred in 1947 when the highest annual incidence occurred (7,766 confirmed cases). The seasonal rise in the number of cases notified came earlier in 1950 than it did in 1947 and 1949. The first noticeable rise was for the last week in May when 50 cases were notified in England and Wales. The period of incidence was unduly long and continued until the second week in December when 82 cases were notified. The peak was for the week ending 26th August when 589 cases were notified. The following graph, reproduced from the last weekly return of the Registrar-General in 1950, gives a clear interpretation of the trend of Poliomyelitis during the second half of each of the years 1947, 1949 and 1950. Deaths from Poliomyelitis for the whole Country during these years were 707, 657 and 755 respectively.

Poliomyelitis—England & Wales.



The local incidence of Acute Poliomyelitis during the year was minimal. The national incidence produced one case for a little over every 5,000 of the population. At this rate, about eight cases would be indicated for these combined Districts. In actual fact, only four confirmed cases occurred—

three at Canvey Island and one at Benfleet. No cases were reported from Rayleigh. Of the Canvey Island cases, one was aged 1½ years, one 3½ years and the other 10 years. All were disassociated mild paralytic cases with the right lower limb affected in each instance. All three cases have been discharged from hospital although two are still receiving out-patient Orthopædic treatment. The case from South Benfleet was an eight year old boy who developed some paralysis in his left arm and left shoulder. He was discharged home after 46 days in hospital. There were also two cases of unconfirmed Poliomyelitis in the Benfleet area and one at Canvey Island. A number of contacts in these districts of cases of Poliomyelitis occurring outside the area were brought to notice during the year, but there were no developments from these.

Attention is drawn to page 25 of my 1949 Report concerning the 11 year old girl from Canvey Island who unfortunately contracted Infantile Paralysis in a most severe form. This child was discharged home during the first week in March, 1951, after spending 18 months in hospital. At that time she was just walking a little, but had to lie in a corrective plaster at night, and also during the day for short periods. She continues to attend for out-patient treatment under the direction of Mr. Whitchurch Howell, F.R.C.S.E., at the Southend General Hospital.

Acute Encephalitis. Two cases of this disease—an acute infection of the Nervous System causing inflammation of the brain—occurred during the year, but they were diagnosed and notified outside the area, hence the reason for them not appearing in the infectious disease tables of this report. Both cases came from Canvey Island and were males, aged 2½ and 32 years respectively. Each case was mild and devoid of paralysis. Hospital treatment was very brief and recovery uneventful.

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis. Under the new Regulations, quoted above, this condition is known as Meningococcal Infection and, as in the case of Acute Poliomyelitis, has been notifiable since 1st September, 1912.

The 279 deaths from this disease in England and Wales for 1950 represented the lowest mortality rate since notification commenced in 1912. There has been a progressive decrease in the case and mortality rate since the epidemic of 1940–41 when over 21,000 cases and 4,500 deaths occurred in the two years. Since 1920 the percentage of deaths from Cerebro-spinal Meningitis per 100 notifications has reduced from 94.2 to 24.25. Even so, the disease still has a high mortality rate, e.g. one in every four or five cases. During 1950, 1,150 confirmed cases occurred throughout the Country.

Since 1940, ten cases and two deaths have occurred in the Benfleet Urban District, five cases and one death in the Canvey Island Urban District and two cases only in the Rayleigh Urban District. In the past year, one case occurred in each of the Benfleet and Canvey areas, both of which recovered. In addition, there was one suspected case at Canvey Island which subsequently proved negative on investigation in hospital.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever

Thanks to modern methods of sanitation and a carefully guarded water supply to the majority of the country's population, the incidence of enteric

fevers is exceedingly low. Only 209 confirmed cases of Typhoid Fever and 296 confirmed cases of Paratyphoid Fever occurred in England and Wales during the year. Deaths from this group of diseases were almost negligible, e.g. 18 and represented 3.56 per cent. of the total number of cases.

There were no cases of Enteric Fever in these Districts during 1950 although a child from Dagenham was notified as suffering from Paratyphoid Fever shortly after returning from a holiday at Canvey Island. After the necessary investigations had been completed at Dagenham it was ascertained that the child's mother was a persistent " carrier " of B. Paratyphosus B. and had never been ill. Her husband, who was admitted to hospital at the same time as the child, with diarrhoea and vomiting, was negative to cultures and agglutinations for paratyphoid fever, but instead, his stool was positive for Salmonella-typhimurium—the common infection in cases of food poisoning. Careful observation was made of all contacts at Canvey Island, and I am glad to say that there were no developments.

Dysentery

In England and Wales there were 17,000 confirmed cases of Dysentery during the year. This represented an increased incidence of over 300 per cent. on the average for the last four years. The mortality rate, however, was very much lower, there being 66 deaths recorded from Dysentery in all its forms.

No confirmed cases of Dysentery occurred in these Districts during the year, but numerous cases of Gastro-enteritis and Diarrhoea were reported. Five cases of Gastro-enteritis received hospital treatment—two from Benfleet, two from Canvey Island and one from Rayleigh. The period of stay in hospital was brief except in one case when it was 33 days (an infant of $1\frac{1}{2}$ years). In addition to these cases, a number of cases of Diarrhoea were reported from an ex-W.D. Camp at Canvey Island now used for housing purposes. No definite causal factors were brought to light during the routine investigations in each case.

Scarlet Fever

The present trend of this disease indicates that it is generally mild in attack. Complications are rare, hospital treatment and isolation often unnecessary, and the death rate only a fraction of what it was a century ago. Statistics show that the death rate in 1870 was 2,282 per million of the population under 15 years of age. Today it is about two per million for the same age group. This is a remarkable improvement.

During 1950, over 65,000 confirmed cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in England and Wales. This was similar to the average incidence of the disease for the past five years. The number of deaths from Scarlet Fever fell from 311 in 1938 to 20 in 1949, giving a case fatality of 0.31 per cent. and 0.028 per cent., respectively. In 1950 the number of deaths rose to 93 although this higher death rate includes deaths from Streptococcal Sore Throat—an adjustment of classification owing to the introduction of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

The local incidence of Scarlet Fever was largely associated with the mild epidemic which occurred during the winter of 1949-50. Most of the local

cases occurred in the first few months of the year. Benfleet's 15 cases showed a minimal incidence and was below the average. Canvey Island continued to be practically clear of the disease with only one case which proved to be a child on holiday, infection being doubtless imported. Rayleigh, with 11 cases, was above the average and on a par with 1948 when the highest incidence since 1943 was reached. The father of one of the Rayleigh cases was engaged in the handling of bread in a large model bakery and his employers were recommended to give him temporary leave to prevent the spread of infection. In this the fullest co-operation was obtained.

Food Poisoning

The need for improvement in standards of hygiene in connection with the preparation and handling of food becomes more apparent with the growing tendency of people to take their meals in public catering establishments. As the problems of home feeding become more difficult for the housewife there is every likelihood of even greater demand being placed upon the catering trade, particularly for the provision of the mid-day meal in canteens, etc.

The Catering Trade Working Party set up by the Minister of Food in November, 1948, completed its recommendations in November, 1950. When all the preliminary and ultimate improvements are generally adopted and brought into effect there should develop a keen sense of satisfaction by all interested in Public Health. These improvements would go far to eliminate the risk of illness through the consumption of infected food.

During 1950 approximately 7,500 established cases of Food Poisoning were notified in England and Wales. This represented an increase of over 1,300 cases on the figure for 1949.

As far as these Districts are concerned, three cases, associated with the consumption of a goat's milk, occurred at Canvey Island, and two cases of undetermined origin occurred at Rayleigh. The following account of the Canvey cases may be of interest :—

> " An outbreak of food poisoning due to a goat's milk occurred at Canvey Island in March, 1950.
>
> Three cases were notified by medical practitioners although the total number of cases ascertained was 14. The chief symptoms were persistent vomiting and diarrhoea, the onset being from two to twelve hours after ingestion of the raw milk. The duration of the illness was from two to six days and in all cases recovery was uneventful.
>
> The circumstances associated with the outbreak were that a local resident kept a small pedigree goat herd consisting of four milkers and four kids, the goats having kidded a short while before the date of the incident. The four goats produced a total output of two gallons of milk daily and this was supplied to neighbours and friends in the vicinity. The milk believed to have been responsible for the food poisoning came from a goat on the 15th March. This goat had kidded some 10 days previously and died at 9 a.m. the next day, 16th March. The Veterinary Surgeon ascribed the death as being due to mastitis. The remaining goats were not affected in any way.
>
> Specimens of fæces from one of the patients and samples of the goat's milk produced on the 15th March were submitted to the

Southend Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. The presence of Staphylococcus was found in the fæces although there was no reaction on typing. Staphylococcus was also found in the sample of milk and the strain on typing was found to be No. 53. In the opinion of the Bacteriologist there was no doubt that the outbreak was due to Staphylococcal infection of the goat's milk."

Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis is costly, very very costly, in its toll of useful human life. Indeed, it is the most costly of human diseases affecting the adolescent child. It has been estimated that 80 per cent. of children in contact with an open case of Tuberculosis show a positive result on testing when they reach the age of 14 years. Therefore, great care should be exercised to prevent children coming into contact with known cases of Tuberculosis. This is particularly essential in respect of very young children in view of the fact that where infection is contracted before the child reaches the age of seven years there is a grave danger to life. Whilst bovine Tuberculosis contracted through the consumption of raw milk from infected cows is something which is receiving the active attention of the Ministries of Health, Food and Agriculture & Fisheries, it is generally accepted that fatal cases of Tuberculosis occurring among children are of a human source.

In combating the scourge of Tuberculosis, emphasis must rightly be placed upon prevention. The old adage of " Prevention is better than cure " was never more true than in relation to Tuberculosis. If the disease is going to be conquered, the administrative wheels linked with the process of prevention must be speeded up and greater co-ordination must be achieved between the preventive and curative aspects of the Tuberculosis Service.

Happily, the number of deaths from Tuberculosis during 1950 continued to fall. The familiar figure of approximately 400 deaths in England and Wales from Tuberculosis every week fell to a factual figure of 345 per week during the first half of 1950 and still further to 270 per week during the second half of the year. The death roll from Tuberculosis throughout the Country fell from approximately 35,000 in 1931 to 16,000 in 1950, representing a precise drop of 54 per cent. on the earlier figure. In 1931, 87 per 100,000 of the Country's population died of Tuberculosis whereas in 1950 the corresponding rate was only 36 per 100,000. On the basis of 16,000 deaths to the population of England and Wales, say, 44,000,000, these combined Districts would expect about 15 deaths from Tuberculosis during the year. In point of fact, 13 deaths occurred during the year. There were five in the Benfleet Urban District, five in the Rayleigh Urban District and three in the Canvey Island Urban District. The average age of the 13 deaths was 46 years.

Complacency in any sphere of life is one of mankind's biggest enemies. Therefore, every precaution must be taken to ensure that we do not become complacent in our attitude towards Tuberculosis. Some may say that because the crude death rate a 100 years ago (1847) was as high as 3,963 per million persons living as compared with 364 in 1950, there is no need for undue concern. Such a remarkable improvement in the situation is certainly a cause for satisfaction, but all the time valuable lives are being lost to themselves and the community, the battle must go on. One thing we do know. Tuberculosis is preventable, so why not prevented ?

There are three principal weapons which are now being used in the fight against this disease—Environmental Hygiene (Housing), B.C.G. Vaccination, and Mass Radiography. In my view, the most important of these is adequate housing. When sufficient housing accommodation has been provided for our peoples, B.C.G. Vaccination and Mass Radiography will pass from the offensive to the defensive in the control of Tuberculosis. The more that is spent on prevention, particularly in the matter of housing, the less that will be required for curative treatment. However, the good efforts put forward by the Government, Local Authorities and the Building Trade, despite the enormous difficulties of post-war conditions, are fully appreciated. The continued easing of the housing position is a priority which will favourably reflect in the statistics of the future, both as regards Tuberculosis and other social problems.

With regard to child contacts of open cases of Tuberculosis, the Essex County Council, on whom the main responsibility rests as Local Health Authority for these areas, have made provision for the removal of children from infected households to the care of suitable hostels or foster-parents, and for further protection to be provided by B.C.G. vaccination. Such action, of course, depends upon the co-operation of the parents concerned.

From the table on page 32 it will be seen that there was an increase from 28 to 38 new cases of Tuberculosis in the three Districts during the year. This is no doubt associated with improved methods of treatment and diagnosis, including Mass Radiography. However, the number of cases which transferred from other areas fell from 24 to 18 during the year.

The following table gives a summary in age groups, of all notified cases of Tuberculosis appearing on the Registers at the 31st December, 1950.

SUMMARY OF CASES APPEARING ON TUBERCULOSIS REGISTERS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1950.

Classification	Under 15 years		15–25 years		25–35 years		35–45 years		45–55 years		55 years and over		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Benfleet U.D.—														
Pulmonary ..	5	3	16	12	9	15	9	9	5	8	16	7	60	57
Non-Pulmonary	2	2	2	3	1	3	—	2	2	—	1	—	8	10
Totals ..	7	5	18	15	10	18	9	11	7	8	17	7	68	67
Canvey Island U.D.—														
Pulmonary ..	2	4	3	14	10	14	10	5	5	1	8	2	38	40
Non-Pulmonary	1	3	3	2	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	7	6
Totals ..	3	7	6	16	12	15	10	5	6	1	8	2	45	46
Rayleigh U.D.—														
Pulmonary ..	2	4	1	4	7	4	4	3	6	4	5	2	25	21
Non-Pulmonary	2	—	2	2	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	5	6
Totals ..	4	4	3	6	8	5	4	4	6	5	5	3	30	27

SUMMARY OF NOTIFICATIONS AND INWARD TRANSFERS OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1950.

	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Benfleet U.D.:					
Notifications ..	10	8	1	2	21
Transfers	6	2	—	—	8
Canvey Island U.D.:					
Notifications ..	4	7	—	—	11
Transfers	3	2	—	1	6
Rayleigh U.D.:					
Notifications ..	4	2	—	—	6
Transfers	2	2	—	—	4

N.B.—During 1949 there were 28 new cases of Tuberculosis notified in the three Districts and a further 24 cases moved into the area from elsewhere. To offset these increases there were 65 removals from the three Registers, including 20 deaths, during that year.

Removals from the Tuberculosis Registers during 1950 totalled 29, including 13 deaths.

SUMMARY OF DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Benfleet U.D.:					
1946	4	1	1	—	6
1947	6	2	—	—	8
1948	8	7	1	—	16
1949	8	3	—	—	11
1950	1	4	—	—	5
Totals ..	27	17	2	—	46
Canvey Island U.D.:					
1946	3	4	1	—	8
1947	1	3	1	—	5
1948	5	1	1	1	8
1949	—	3	1	—	4
1950	1	1	—	1	3
Totals ..	10	12	4	2	28
Rayleigh U.D.:					
1946	1	3	1	—	5
1947	3	2	1	—	6
1948	—	2	—	—	2
1949	3	1	1	—	5
1950	3	2	—	—	5
Totals ..	10	10	3	—	23

Cancer

A short word on this malignant disease should not be without significance.

It has recently been stated that the expectation of life at birth during the year 1949 was 66.01 years for men and 70.63 years for women. With an ageing population it is evident that malignant diseases have a greater opportunity of becoming ascertained. Research continues and the public can be assured that the medical profession will not rest until they have overcome this mountain of difficulty.

Cancer in all its forms is responsible for 16.2 per cent. of all deaths, and mortality rose from 66,000 in 1938 to 82,700 in 1950 for England and Wales. Males and females seem equally subject to the disease, although the rise in Lung Cancer of the middle-aged, particularly of the male sex, is causing concern and is the subject of investigation within the medical profession. Significance is being attached to the effects of the tobacco habit in this connection. From this point of view it is remarkable that during 1950 for every six deaths from Cancer of the Bronchus and Lung five were men, and the actual total of deaths of both men and women from this form of Cancer was 12,232.

During 1950 there were 88 deaths from the various forms of Cancer in the Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh Urban Districts. These represented 16.2 per cent. of the total deaths for the year (the same as the percentage for England and Wales).

ACCIDENTS.

The returns of the Registrar-General for 1950 show that 4,218 people were killed on the roads of England and Wales during that year, as against 4,092 during 1949.

In view of the increasing volume of traffic on the roads since petrol ceased to be rationed, it is to be expected that the accident rate should increase and the following figures provided by the Chief Constable of Essex show that there was a rise in road casualties in these Districts during 1950, although, happily, the number of deaths on the road fell from 6 to 4. The need, however, for greater care on the road is again stressed, and every road user should do his part in the effort to reduce road accidents and consequent loss of life and injury.

SUMMARY OF PERSONS KILLED OR INJURED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS DURING 1950.

Group of Road User.	Killed.	Seriously Injured.	Slightly Injured.
Benfleet U.D. :			
Pedestrians under 15 years	—	3	3
Pedestrians 15 years and over ..	1	5	9
Drivers	—	3	4
Motor Cyclists	—	14	8
Pillion Passengers	—	1	4
Pedal Cyclists under 15 years.. ..	1	—	1
Pedal Cyclists 15 years and over ..	—	9	13
Other Persons	—	7	10
Totals	2	42	52

Group of Road User.	Killed.	Seriously Injured.	Slightly Injured.
Canvey Island U.D.:			
Pedestrians under 15 years	—	3	3
Pedestrians 15 years and over	—	2	5
Drivers	—	1	1
Motor Cyclists	—	4	2
Pillion Passengers	—	—	—
Pedal Cyclists under 15 years	—	1	2
Pedal Cyclists 15 years and over	—	4	7
Other Persons	—	6	10
Totals	—	21	30
Rayleigh U.D.:			
Pedestrians under 15 years	—	3	5
Pedestrians 15 years and over	—	4	10
Drivers	—	1	1
Motor Cyclists	—	7	10
Pillion Passengers	—	—	6
Pedal Cyclists under 15 years	1	—	2
Pedal Cyclists 15 years and over	1	3	16
Other Persons	—	2	15
Totals	2	20	65
Totals for three Districts, 1950	4	83	147
Totals for three Districts, 1949	6	52	146

NUMBER OF ROAD ACCIDENTS OCCURRING IN THE BENFLEET, CANVEY ISLAND AND RAYLEIGH URBAN DISTRICTS DURING 1950.

Class of Accident.	Benfleet.	Canvey Island.	Rayleigh.
Fatal	2	—	2
Injury	80	37	65
Non-Injury	151	73	116
Totals	233	110	183

RAINFALL.

Details of the rainfall during the year have been provided by the Southend Waterworks Company in respect of the records maintained at the Thundersley reservoirs, and by the Surveyor's Department of the Canvey Island Urban District Council in respect of that area.

The Thundersley record shows that rain fell on 164 days during the year, the wettest months being November with 3.39 inches and September with 3.22 inches. The driest months were October with 0.24 inches and March with 0.60 inches. A total rainfall of 20.99 inches was recorded.

Rain fell on 168 days at Canvey Island and a total of 21.60 inches was recorded. The wettest months were November and September with 3.57 and 2.88 inches respectively. Also, as at Thundersley, the driest months were October and March with a respective recorded rainfall of 0.22 and 0.43 inches.

WELFARE OF THE AGED.

The Essex County Council, as Welfare Authority, are largely responsible for assisting the elderly in time of need. The Services provided by the County Council include Nursing in the home, Domestic Help, and Institutional Accommodation.

Although the County Council have a number of institutions throughout the County for the reception of elderly folk in accordance with Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948, it is a matter of regret that no such accommodation has yet been provided within these Districts. During 1950 it was understood that the nearest centres were Billericay and Rochford. It is appreciated however, that endeavours have been made to find suitable properties in the locality which could be adapted as residential accommodation for the elderly, and it is hoped that if these efforts fail to come to fruition it will be possible for the County Council to obtain official sanction for the erection of new buildings.

In 1947 the Registrar-General estimated that there were 50 per cent. more people in these Districts over the age of 65 years than on the average for the rest of the country, and there is reason to believe that the migratory trend of elderly folk towards the area has not diminished since then.

The continuance of an above-the-average percentage of the older age groups in the Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh Urban Districts is borne out by the adjusted death rates on page 8. There we see that the number of deaths for the three combined Districts would have been 132 fewer if the age grouping of the population had been on a level with the rest of the country. In actual fact the number of deaths for the year were 32 per cent. more than the average, accounted for by the over-balance of the upper age groups.

In the face of this evidence it would seem that the provision of residential accommodation for the elderly by the Welfare Authority within the area of these Districts is a matter of grave urgency.

Numerous cases of elderly folk in need of assistance of one form or another were brought to the notice of the Department during the year and every endeavour was made to direct enquirers to the Authority responsible for each particular type of case. Although pressure on hospital and institutional accommodation continues to be severely taxed, wholehearted co-operation was the key-note of all concerned, e.g. Medical Practitioners, Hospitals and Welfare Officers.

No action was taken during the year under the provisions of Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, in relation to the compulsory removal of aged persons in need of care and attention.

———————o———————

In conclusion, it should be noted that the Medical Officer of Health has an important duty in the field of prevention of disease and is a unifying link with the man in the street for the Health Services, even though some of the branches thereof do not come under his direct control.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Disease.	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Benfleet U.D.:					
Acute Pneumonia ..	5	6	7	12	7
Diphtheria	3	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	4	8	6	5	6
Infectious Hepatitis ..	56	20	3	3	2
Measles	13	254	38	266	22
Poliomyclitis	1	1	—	1	1
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever	14	16	18	52	15
Whooping Cough ..	20	87	69	49	90
Canvey Island U.D.:					
Acute Pneumonia ..	2	6	3	2	1
Diphtheria	1	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas	1	3	—	1	—
Infectious Hepatitis ..	12	8	2	7	6
Measles	66	31	137	61	18
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	1	—	1
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	2	3
Scarlet Fever	1	1	—	1	1
Whooping Cough ..	—	2	1	2	17
Rayleigh U.D.:					
Acute Pneumonia ..	11	5	3	3	15
Diphtheria	1	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas	7	13	6	6	11
Infectious Hepatitis ..	2	—	—	—	—
Measles	31	34	68	60	14
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	2	—
Scarlet Fever	6	4	11	5	10
Whooping Cough ..	27	15	25	7	56

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES REPORTED IN ENGLAND AND WALES DURING LAST FIVE YEARS.

Disease	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Diphtheria	472	245	156	85	49
Dysentery	121	81	62	40	66
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	509	534	300	288	279
*Influenza	5,290	3,309	1,240	5,664	3,896
Measles	203	645	327	308	221
Poliomyelitis	128	707	241	657	755
Scarlet Fever	43	42	37	20	93
Tuberculosis	22,850	23,550	21,983	19,833	15,968
Whooping Cough ..	806	905	748	527	393

*This is not a notifiable disease.

CLASSIFIED SUMMARY OF ALL INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1950.

BENFLEET URBAN DISTRICT.

Notifiable Disease	*Cases included in Weekly Returns*													*Admitted to Hospital*	*Deaths*	*Distribution*			*Sex*	
	At Ages																			
	At all ages	0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over			*Hadleigh*	*Sth Benfleet*	*Thundersley*	*M.*	*F.*
Acute Pneumonia	7	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	7	—	—	4	3
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	3	—	3	5	1
Infectious Hepatitis ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
Measles	22	1	3	4	5	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	11	9	13
Meningococcal Infection ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
Scarlet Fever	15	—	1	1	1	3	5	3	—	1	—	—	—	8	—	3	6	6	7	8
Whooping Cough	90	11	6	15	8	8	41	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35	21	34	53	37

CLASSIFIED SUMMARY OF ALL INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1950.

CANVEY ISLAND URBAN DISTRICT.

Notifiable Disease	*Cases included in Weekly Returns*													*Admitted to Hospital*	*Deaths*	*Sex*	
	At Ages																
	At all ages	0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over			*M.*	*F.*
Acute Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	1
Infectious Hepatitis	6	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4
Measles	18	—	2	—	3	5	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	6
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Poliomyelitis	3	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	2
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	17	1	2	2	3	3	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	9	8

CLASSIFIED SUMMARY OF ALL INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1950.

RAYLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT.

Notifiable Disease	*Cases included in Weekly Returns*													*Admitted to Hospital*	*Deaths*	*Sex*	
	At Ages															*M.*	*F.*
	At all ages	0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over				
Acute Pneumonia	15	—	—	1	—	1	3	1	—	2	—	4	3	3	—	10	5
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	4	3	—	—	5	6
Food Poisoning	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1
Measles	14	3	3	1	1	—	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	8	6
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	11 (1)	—	1	2	2	2	3	—	—	—	(1)	—	—	10 (1)	—	7	4 (1)
Whooping Cough	56	2	5	6	10	4	27	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	32	24

N.B. The figures in parenthesis indicate the number of cases in which the diagnosis was corrected.

INDEX.

	Page
Accidents	33–34
Aged, Welfare of	35
Ambulance Service	12
Area	4
Births	4–7
Cancer	33
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	26–27
Clinics	12–13
Condemned Food	21–22
Deaths	4–10
Diphtheria	24–25
Domestic Helps	12
Drainage and Sewerage	14–15
Dysentery	28
Encephalitis	26–27
Factories Act, 1937	16
Food Inspection	21–22
Food Poisoning	29–30
Health Visiting	12
Home Nursing	12
Hospitals	12
Housing	17–19
Ice Cream	22–23
Infant Mortality	4–8
Infectious Diseases	16–17, 23–32, 36–39
Inhabited Houses	4
Inspections and Visits	17
Laboratory Service	12
Measles	25
Meat Inspection	20–21
Midwifery	12
Milk	19–20
Paratyphoid Fever	27–28
Petroleum, Storage of	16
Poliomyelitis	26–27
Population	4, 11
Public Cleansing	15–16
Rainfall	34–35
Rateable Value	4
Salvage	15–16
Scarlet Fever	28–29
Smallpox	24
Staff	3
Stillbirths	4
Tuberculosis	12, 20–21, 30–32
Typhoid Fever	27–28
Vaccination	24
Vital Statistics	4–8
Water Supply	13–14
Whooping Cough	25

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